DC

13

THE FLASH

SPURRIER
PÉREZ
HERMS

BROKEN LEGACY

13+ TEEN

DAWN OF DC

AN ALL-OUT BATTLE
FOR THE FUTURE OF THE DC UNIVERSE!

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ABSOLUTE POWER #4

DON'T MISS THE GAME-CHANGING FINALE FROM
MARK WAID and DAN MORA
AS A NEW ERA OF JUSTICE BEGINS!

OCTOBER

In a place that is not a place...

...at a time where time is born...

...with a scalpel of utter stillness...

...an **excision** is performed.

TH-THANK YOU, BARRY. I COULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS WITHOUT YOU...

Wally... WHEN ARE YOU GONNA SEE WHAT EVERYONE ELSE SEES?

THERE'S ***NOTHING*** YOU COULDN'T DO.

But *oh*, the wound ***is*** dire, flecked with the bloody froth of aborted futures.

THERE'S THE PAYLOAD. WE GOTTA GET THAT THING OUTTA HERE BEFORE--

Barry... IT'S ***AFRAID.***

THE... THE LIGHT. THE ***SOURCE.*** IT'S SCARED.

...that's...

WALLY, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW THE SPEED FORCE IS ***ALIVE.*** NOT IN THE CONVENTIONAL SENSE. LET'S JUST GET HOME, AND--

I DO. *I* KNOW.

I FEEL IT.

IT'S... IT'S NOT FULLY AWAKE. IT'S SLEPT FOR BILLIONS OF YEARS, BUT--

--hrrrn--

--SOMETHING'S ***HAPPENING*** TO IT. EVEN ***BEFORE*** THE POISON.

IT'S... nnnnf... I-IT'S IN SUCH ***PAIN.***

WALLY!

SCHLOP

THAT'S WHY THE ARC ANGLES DID THIS NOW. TH-THEY ATTACKED IT WHILE IT WAS ***WEAK.***

SEIZE THE POISON!

REINFECT! REINFECT!

TIME MUST DIE!

ISSUE THIRTEEN: "AND EVERY-THING AFTER"

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THEY CAN'T GET DOWN HERE. NOT WHILE IT'S STILL ALIVE. BUT-- THEY WON'T ***EVER*** QUIT, BARRY. THEY ***HATE*** US. THEY HATE ANYTHING THAT CHANGES.

Anything that ***grows.***

WALLY! WHAT ARE YOU ***DOING?***

I THINK I CAN HELP IT... *Look.* I THINK I CAN ***HEAL*** IT.

NO! NO! WE'RE NOT LOSING YOU AG--

MR. ALLEN?

INTO THE PORTAL, PLEASE, SIR. THINGS HAVE TO PLAY OUT JUST RIGHT.

LET'S GET THAT DAMN THING ON ***ICE,*** *huh?*

BUT--

Please. Whatever you are. I don't know what to do. Help me. Help me ***fix*** you.

YOU ARE INADEQUATE FOR THIS TASK, LITTLE CONDUIT.

And *oh--* ***they.***

They whisper in his mind. They hiss in his heart.

Look at them. The children of the curved corner. They could have been ***so perfect.*** So beautiful.

THE WOUND IS MORTAL! THE DAMAGE IS DONE! THE DEEP CHANGE **WILL** DIE!

YOU CANNOT SAVE IT, CONDUIT-- HOWEVER MUCH OF YOURSELF YOU GIVE!

IT WOULD **DRAIN YOU** TO DUST, JUST TO LIVE A MOMENT MORE!

TH... THEN **LET IT.**

The Speed Force is a force for good...

But they are ***corrupted***. A ***tainted*** emanation, loathing themselves and the cosmos they were created to enrich.

Determined to extinguish the radiance that made them.

NO. Ha.

WOF

YOU WILL **NOT** GIVE OF YOUR FLESH, WALLY WEST. YOU WILL NOT SUCCUMB TO THIS SMUG SACRIFICE...

WE **UNDERSTAND** YOU, LITTLE CONDUIT.

WE RECOGNIZE THE **COMPLICATING VARIABLE** THAT ALTERS ALL MATH.

LOVE.

D-Dad...?

YOU WOULD DISCARD ALL RATIONALITY... YOU WOULD BURN A BILLION REALITIES... TO PROTECT THOSE YOU CHERISH.

DAD!

NO...

...NO...

WE DO NOT HAVE YOUR **LINK** TO THE DEEP CHANGE... BUT WE WERE ITS FIRST EMANATIONS.

Gaa?

YOUR CRUDE POWER... YOUR BRUTISH TALENT FOR **LINEAR MOTION**... WILL NOT AVAIL YOU.

TIME IS **OURS** TO END. WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO ERASE A FEW **MEWLING ORGANICS.**

W...Wally...?

SO, MR. WEST. YOU **WILL** STEP AWAY FROM THE SOURCE.

YOU **WILL** KEEP THE BLADE WHERE WE CAN SEE IT.

AND YOU **WILL** LET TIME STAND STILL.

There is a shudder. The last drop of resistance.

Whether from the man or the monad it is hard to say. Perhaps they are the same.

What is certain is that he has never felt such weariness. Such unutterable weight.

Such an irresistible need to admit his smallness.

Faster.

Stronger.

Never stop.

To admit that the limits of expectation will always outpace the reality.

SLOWLY, LITTLE CONDUIT. NO SUDDEN MOVES.

I don't *do* slowly.

He goes sideways.

Sideways.

Out of the story.

And back.

Back like a ***storm***.

Y~~

~~YOU...

...YOU~~

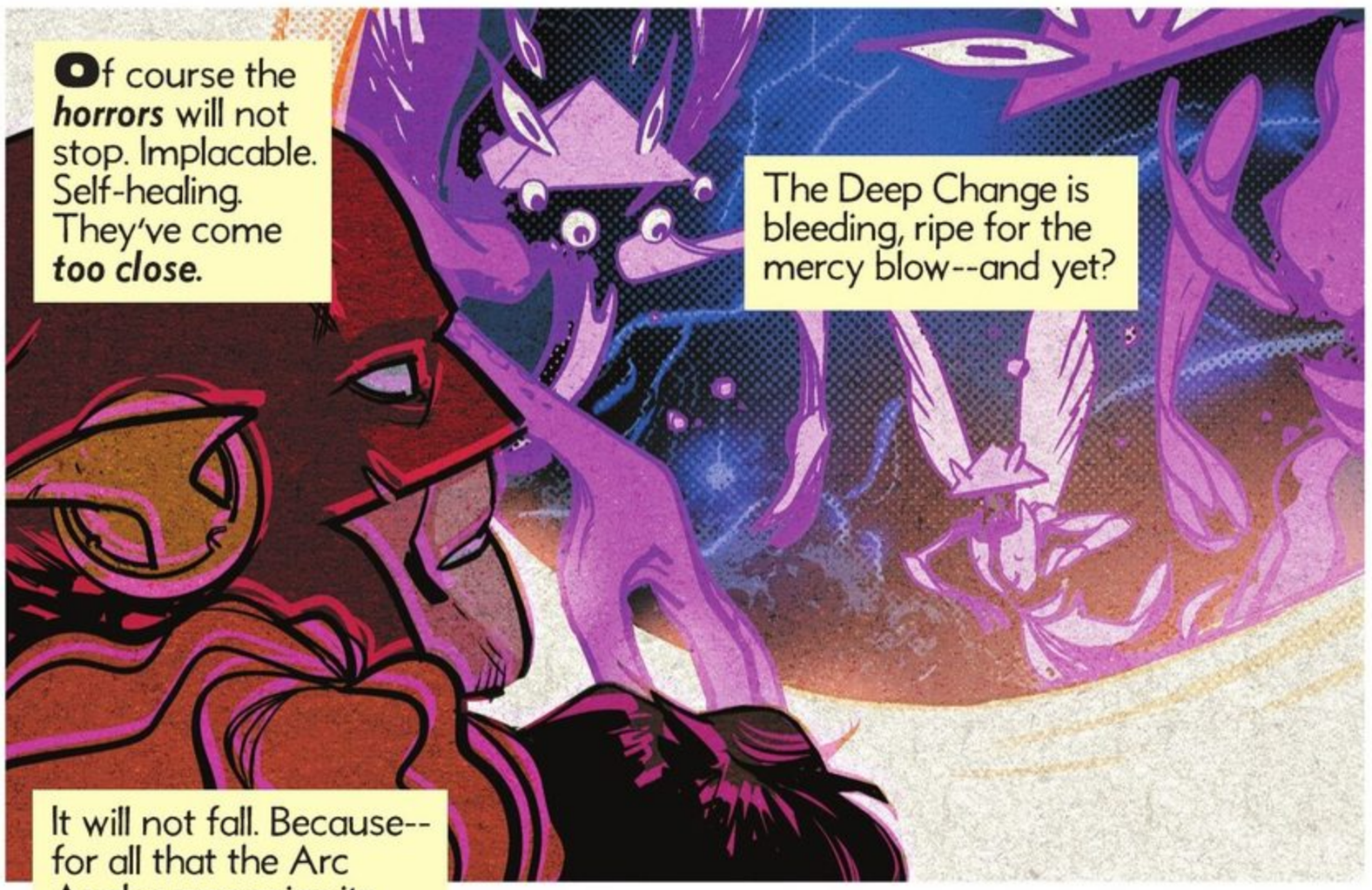
YOU DO NOT #@€% WITH MY FAMILY.

I'M SORRY, GUYS. I-- I GOT SO... ***STRETCHED OUT.***

Wally, wait--

SO BUSY TRYING TO BE EVERYTHING TO EVERYONE, I-- I NEVER KNOW WHAT HAT TO WEAR-- ***FLASH*** OR ***FATHER*** OR ***FRIEND*** OR ***HUSBAND*** OR--

DAD.


Of course the ***horrors*** will not stop. Implacable. Self-healing. They've come ***too close.***
The Deep Change is bleeding, ripe for the mercy blow--and yet?
It will not fall. Because-- for all that the Arc Angles recognize its disrupting effect--

And so it is that the dreamer of all things-- the ***Deep Change***-- feels something ***vivid***...

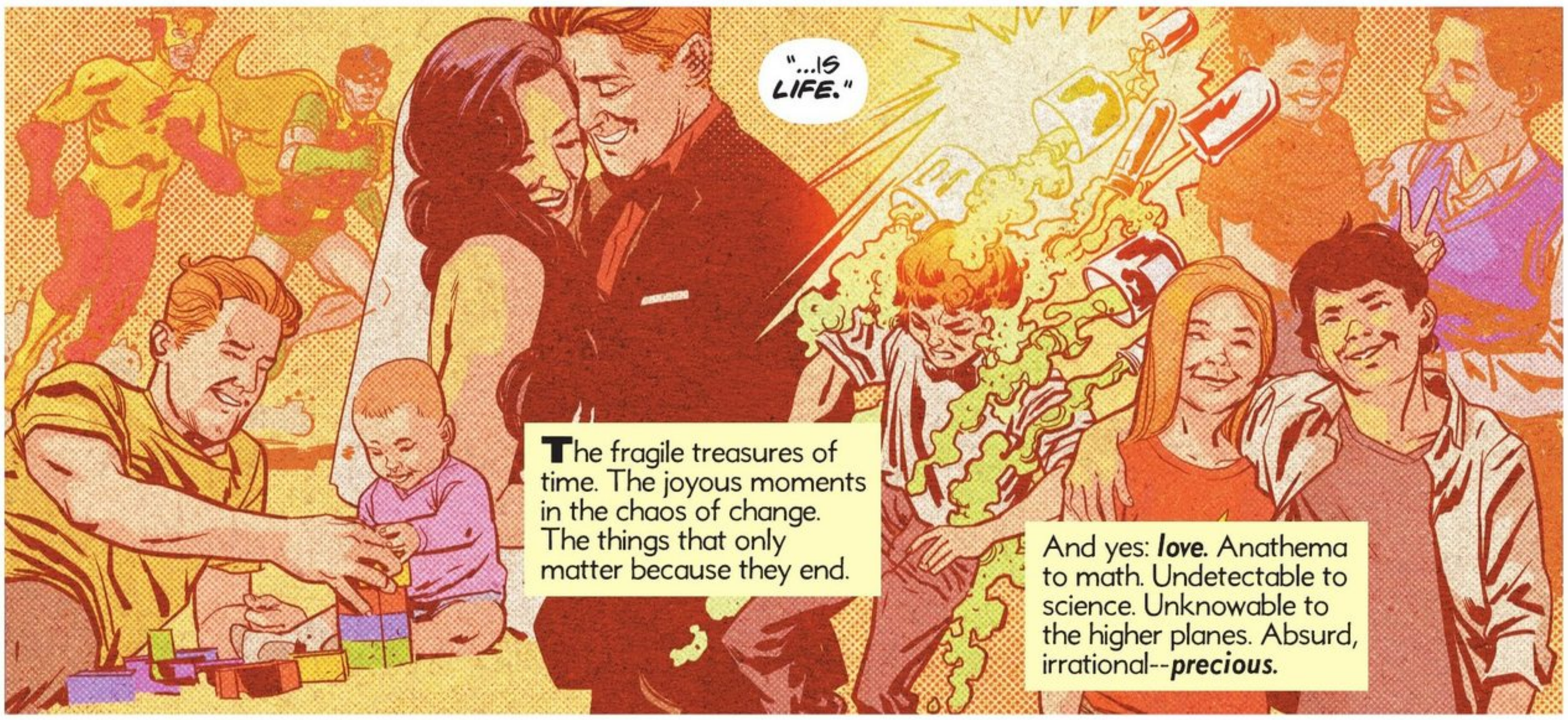
...something brave and fragile and above-all ***alive***... amidst the pain and panic of its recent slumber.

And it wakes.

I awake.

And I ***breathe.***

THEY WERE RIGHT. IT'S NOT JUST A... A ***SOURCE*** OF ***POWER.*** WE'RE NOT JUST PARASITES.
THE RIVER FLOWS ***BOTH WAYS.*** A-AND WHAT IT LEARNS FROM US... WH-WHAT ***NOURISHES*** IT...


"...IS ***LIFE.***"
The fragile treasures of time. The joyous moments in the chaos of change. The things that only matter because they end.
And yes: ***love.*** Anathema to math. Undetectable to science. Unknowable to the higher planes. Absurd, irrational--***precious.***

This is my ***gift.*** The whirling cataract of change. And the ***hope*** that comes with it.

THE INVISIBLE CONNECTIONS.
The strength returns.
The ***pain*** remains.
And all I can think of... in this sharp new vivacity...
...in this discomforting consciousness...

...is my ***family.***

R-RELEASE US!

NO PRISON CAN HOLD THE CURVED CORNER!

So proud. So bitter. There must be punishment. There must be ***lessons learned,*** and yet...

Oh. I ***do*** cherish them so. There ***must*** be a kinder way.

Child?

I... I ***HEAR*** YOU.

JAI? HEAR ***WHO?***

I need your skill. We must ***reshape*** what cannot bend.

Uh. ***S-SURE.*** I GUESS. I'M-- I'M KINDA NEW TO THIS ***SHAPER*** THING. Y-YOU'LL HAVE TO SHOW ME ***HOW.***

Child, it is not a question of ***how.***

It is a question of ***what.***

Hm. BLANKNESS OF MIND. INTRIGUING. WHAT ***ARE*** WE?

I THINK, *uhm.* I THINK YOU'RE ***EXPLORERS.***

YyYyeah. YOU SHOULD-- YOU SHOULD ***DEFINITELY*** GO EXPLORE. JUST-- DO ME A FAVOR? ***NEVER FORGET.***

IT'S BETTER TO FEEL ***ANYTHING*** THAN ***NOTHING.***

THERE'S ALWAYS MORE ***WONDER*** AROUND THE CORNER. SOMETIMES IT JUST--

--TAKES A LITTLE TIME.

...aaaoow... D-DO YOU GUYS ***FEEL*** THAT?

WH-WHAT ***IS*** THAT? IT'S LIKE-- LIKE A ***WAVE*** OF PAIN...

I-I-IT'S HURTING A ***LOT,*** DAD. AND I THINK IT'S ***SCARED...***

...waaaaitaminute...

THOSE ***ANGLE*** THINGS-- THEY USED ITS PAIN TO FOOL EVERYONE, RIGHT? MADE EVERYONE THINK IT WAS YOU ***SPEEDSTERS*** CAUSING IT.

The ***reality*** hiccups... powers going wrong... time monsters on a rampage...

...BUT IT WAS ***ALREADY*** IN PAIN, BEFORE ANY OF THAT STARTED. RIGHT?

MAX ***SAW IT*** IN HIS VISION.

I THINK... I THINK I RECOGNIZE THIS, WALLY.

The peaks and troughs. The-- the breathless rush. The terror and excitement...

I'VE FELT THE SAME THING.

I'VE FELT IT ***THREE TIMES.***

Wait. YOU'RE... YOU'RE SAYING...

Mmhm.

WHAT?

WHAT'S SHE SAYING?

GOD'S HAVING A BABY.

It is.

I am.

I MEAN-- I W-WOULDN'T SAY "GOD," EXACTLY. I-I-IT'S MORE OF A-- **MATHEMATICAL PRINCIPLE** UNDERLYING ALL THINGS.

BESIDES-- **"BABY"?** THAT'S **HUMAN** THINKING. THIS MIGHT BE PART OF A, *I dunno,* A COSMIC METAMORPHOSIS, OR, OR A **CYCLE** OF **EMANATION,** OR--

GOD'S HAVING A BABY AND NOBODY ELSE IS FREAKING OUT. GOT IT. *Got it.*

DAD, WHAT DO WE DO?!

SMARTEST THING WE CAN **EVER** DO, HONEY.

WE LISTEN TO YOUR MOTHER.

...

I DON'T PRETEND TO KNOW MUCH ABOUT... **THIS** STUFF. COSMIC FORCES, EMANATIONS. NONE OF IT FEELS REAL.

BUT I KNOW WHAT HELPED **ME** GET THROUGH IT, MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

HOLDING A HAND I LOVED.

Oh. They know.

I am awake and I am afraid and I know so little-- so little about them and the world I made for them-- but *oh*. **Ohhhh.**

They know me so well.

There is an instant.

An instant where ***everything is possible.***

Where forgotten futures and premature pasts collide. Where an unimaginable new ***now*** is conjured... and ***birthed.***

Where all that is mundane... and all that is miraculous... are shaken together. Intermarried. ***Harmonized.***

And yes, it ***resettles.*** After the white-hot pain... after the ***release***... there is peace.

But something has changed. A brave new light, glimmering in the firmament.

And ***then?*** (Because there ***are thens*** again now.)

Then... it is time for me to ***sleep***...

And for ***them?***

My chosen. The tips of my nerves. The holders of my breath.

For them--

--it is done.

WUFF!

Creation is saved. The dream flows on. And everything--***everything***--

--is just as it was before.

DID... WE WIN?

Shush, Foxy!

Nobody's forgiven you yet for pooping during the ***last*** meeting. Be good!

WUFF!

YEAH, I... I THINK WE WON.

WE ***TOTALLY*** WON.

SHOULD WE... THROW A PARTY, OR...?

I goff freff donuff!

But *oh*, they ***are*** Flashes. There ***is*** demand.

There is ***change***.

WORD FROM THE JUSTICE SOCIETY. ***WALLER'S*** MAKING HER MOVE!

I...I CAN'T FEEL THE MULTIVERSE... That's ***weird***...

Maxine? ***Slow down***--Whaddaya mean, a mob's attacking your Dad? Stay there-- I'm on my way!

And so?

They run.

Because for them... for all adrift upon the sacred stream...

WALLY.

There is.

No.

Stop.

BABYSITTER COMIN' THROUGH. BILL YA LATER, LOVEBIRDS.

Thank you.

...SO... YOU GONNA TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG?

What? NOTH--

WALLACE RUDOLPH WEST, IF YOU LEARN **ONE THING** FROM ALL THIS CRAZINESS, LET IT BE **TALK TO YOUR WIFE, DUMMY.**

I, *uh.* I **SAW** SOMETHING. THE **FUTURE,** I THINK. DURING THE-- *y'know,* THE **BIRTH.**

Like... I DON'T KNOW WHAT ANY OF IT **MEANT...** OR WHERE THE **NEWBORN** WENT-- if that's even the right word... BUT...

...I SAW **TWO FLASHES.** *Like...* **EQUALS.** SHARING THE ROLE. Except.

I COULD TELL THEY DIDN'T TRUST EACH OTHER.

YOU MEAN-- YOU AND BARRY?

GOOD LUCK TO YOU, WALLY.

AND GOOD LUCK TO YOU, WALLY.

No.

Look-- LET'S TALK LATER. WE NEED SOME FAMILY TIME. BUT-- RIGHT NOW--

I know. YOU GOTTA RUN.

HOW LONG AM I GONNA LOVE YA?

Ha.

Till time stands still...

"...AND EVERY-THING AFTER."

CHECK OUT *ABSOLUTE POWER* #4 AND *DC ALL IN SPECIAL* TO SEE THE SPEEDSTERS JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST WALLER'S FORCES!

NEXT MONTH IN *THE FLASH:* JOURNEY TO SKARTARIS!

ALL IN

Oversize one-shot flipbook on sale in **OCTOBER**

Darkseid is. **Two universes.**

Darkseid was. **One prophecy.**

IT ALL STARTS IN
DC ALL IN SPECIAL #1

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON • SCOTT SNYDER
DANIEL SAMPERE • WES CRAIG

DC NATION INTERVIEW

SCOTT SNYDER AND JOSHUA WILLIAMSON, WRITERS OF

DC ALL IN SPECIAL #1

This fall, DC goes *ALL IN* with its biggest publishing initiative in years: presenting two distinct narratives that form one colossal story, starting a dynamic and explosive new epic for the World's Greatest Superheroes! It all starts with the *DC All In Special* #1 one-shot flipbook by Scott Snyder, Joshua Williamson, Daniel Sampere, and Wes Craig, where readers will learn the unique circumstances behind the dawn of a new world—the Absolute Universe—and witness a shocking vision of the future of the core DC Universe.

How did the All In initiative take shape?

Scott Snyder: All In is about reminding everybody that comics are where the biggest stories are told, where the characters are reborn and renewed, where the biggest legacy storytelling happens. It's the greatest continuing story in the world.

Joshua Williamson: Whenever somebody tries to do an initiative, they either try to do something brand-new or something that embraces the classic. One of the conversations we were having was, how do we do both? How do we do a new story that introduces brand-new stuff, but really elevates classic pieces that we love?

Snyder: The idea is to create the greatest jumping-on point in many, many years. There is no reboot, but there will be new story arcs beginning in October, and it all starts with *DC All In Special*.

What can fans expect from *DC All In Special*?

Williamson: It's going to be a flipbook. One side, drawn by Daniel Sampere, is going to foucs on what is going on in the current DCU post-*Absolute Power*. You're going to see a lot of this through the eyes of Superman; you'll get to see teases of the new storylines that are coming up. The other side of the story, drawn by Wes Craig, is all from the point of view of Darkseid.

What makes the Absolute Universe different from the core DC Universe?

Snyder: If the main universe is predicated on Superman energy, this universe is founded on Darkseid energy. In this universe, the heroes come up in ways that make them underdogs. They have a lot less of the comfort they have in the main DC Universe. They have to be tougher, they have to be more resourceful, they've got to shine brighter—and it makes them more badass.

DON'T MISS *DC ALL IN SPECIAL* #1, ON SALE IN OCTOBER!

ALL IN

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